PACE 5/13 \* RCVD AT 2/23/2004 9:54:48 PM [Eastern Standard Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 \* DNIS:8729306 \* CSID:+6504738654 \* DURATION (mm-ss):04-08

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OFFICIAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Thomas Cech et al.

Filing Date: January 18, 2002

Serial No: 10/054,295

Docket: 015389-002990US; 018/184

Title: VECTORS FOR EXPRESSING

TELOMERASE REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE

IN MAMMALIAN CELLS

Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Malgorzata A. Walicka, Ph.D.

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents Alexandria VA 22313

Dear Sir,

This paper is responsive to the most recent Office Action on the merits, dated October 21, 2003, for which a response is due January 21, 2004. Accompanying this response is a Request for a one-month extension of time. Since February 21 falls on a Saturday, this paper is timely filed.

Applicants have given careful consideration to the analysis in the Office Action. Please enter the following amendments and remarks.